

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. C-1628/NUSF
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to) PROGRESSION ORDER #7
conduct an investigation into) APPROVING, IN PART, ILEC
intrastate access charge reform) TRANSITION PLANS
and intrastate universal)
service fund.) Entered: August 3, 1999

BY THE COMMISSION:

After nearly 19 months of work and study by the Commission and the parties to this docket, on January 13, 1999, this Commission entered its Findings and Conclusions (Order) in this docket for the purpose of reducing access charges and the subsidies which have been provided through access charges and to implement a Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) to support universal service to telephone customers in Nebraska.

As part of that order, all incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) were required to file a transition plan, on or before March 31, 1999, outlining access reductions and proposed local rate increases for Commission approval. While the due date for such plans was extended until April 30, 1999, the order required that each transition plan "detail any and all rate adjustments during the applicable transition period." Order at p. 3.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

With respect to the access charge plans filed by the non-rural companies, the Commission finds that year one and two access rates filed by US West and Aliant and year one access rates filed by GTE comply with the requirements of the C-1628 orders. At the end of a three-year transition period, these three companies are required to have removed all implicit subsidies from access rates. In order to determine compliance with this requirement, the Commission, consistent with its findings in C-1628/NUSF, will open a proceeding with respect to the proposed year three access rates of US West and Aliant. This proceeding will conclude by December 31, 2000. GTE has requested a waiver of the requirement with respect to the second and third year of its transition period, pending the imminent sale of its Nebraska properties. Once the sale is completed, the Commission will initiate the appropriate action with respect to carrying out the findings in C-1628.

With respect to the access charge plans filed by the rural companies, the Commission finds that there remains substantial issues with respect to some rural companies' compliance with the C-1628 orders. However, in order to meet the time frame specified in C-1628/NUSF the Commission will allow the proposed year one access rates of rural companies to become effective September 1, 1999. The Commission will continue to examine the proposed year one through four access rates of non-rural ILECs. If any access rates are found not to be in compliance with the C-1628 orders, the

Commission will take appropriate action at that time.

Any and all waiver requests and or other issues that remain to be addressed in the companies' transition plans will be addressed in another order of this Commission. Only the access rates are hereby approved as set forth above and included in attached Exhibits 1-41.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the access rates set forth in the ILEC transition plans are hereby approved as set forth above.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 3rd day of August, 1999.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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